GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5458
ANSWERED ON:15.05.2007
IMPORT OF CEMENT
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Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a decision to import cement has been taken by the Government to check the increase in cement price;

(b) if so, the details of prices and quantity thereof alongwith the countries from which it is likely to be imported; and

(c) the extent to which the import of cement is likely to bring down the soaring prices of cement in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) to (c): The import of Cement is under Open General License (OGL) and anyone can import the requisite quantity provided it conforms to the BIS standards. In order to augment domestic availability of cement, the import duty on cement was brought down to Nil from 12.5% as on 21st January, 2007. The Government in its Budget announcement, has also introduced a dual excise duty structure on cement (excise duty of Rs. 600 PMT of cement with MRP more than Rs. 190 per bag and excise duty of Rs. 300 PMT on cement with MRP of Rs. 190 or less per bag).

In addition to the above, the Ministry of Finance has removed the countervailing duty (equivalent to the excise duty and special additional custom duty of 4% on cement w.e.f. 3rd April, 2007). The importers have to adhere to the Cement (Quality Control) Order, 2003 which provides for mandatory BIS Certification.